THE

Board of Trade Journal.

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The Offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade are at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

The registered telegraphic address of the Branch is "Advantage, London."

A statement of the objects and work of the Commercial Intelligence Branch will be found on p. 573.

Attention is directed to the Sample Room, where there are at present on view, among other exhibits, samples of iron ore received from H.M. Consuls at the following places, viz.:—Wimille (near Boulogne), Corsica, Oporto, Brussa (Asia Minor), Rubigo near Scutari (Albania), Adis Ababa and Harrar (Abyssinia), Copiapo (Chile), Guadeloupe, Tegucigalpa (Honduras), Peru, Muscat (Arabia), and Wuhu (China), to illustrate their reports, which are among those embodied in the publication just issued by the Board of Trade on "Iron Ore Deposits in Foreign Countries" (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 15th June, p. 521); samples of Chinese-made footwear (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 6th April, pp. 10-11); samples of copper from the Besshi copper mine in Japan (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 23rd March last, p. 560); and also samples of cotton grown in Colombia (see p. 544 of present issue).

The following Special Trade Enquiry Offices are also at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.:—

India.	Queensland.
Dominion of Canada.	Cape of Good Hope.

Statements of the objects and work of the Special Trade Enquiry Offices will be found on p. 574.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: INDIA OFFICE.

Railway Materials.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive tenders from such persons as may be willing to supply—

1. Wheels and axles for carriages and wagons.
2. Covered goods wagons.
3. Rails and fishplates.
4. Bearing plates.
5. Switches and crossings.
6. Deck bridges.

The conditions of contract may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.), or may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W. Tenders are to be delivered at the latter office by 2 p.m. on Tuesday, the 27th June, 1905, for Nos. 1 to 5, and on Tuesday, the 4th July, for No. 6, after which times, respectively, no tender will be received.

Supply of Steel Work.

The South Indian Railway Company, Limited, are prepared to receive tenders for the supply of—

Steel work in floors and roofs of station buildings, about 86 tons.

Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's Offices, 55, Gracechurch Street, E.C.

Tenders, addressed to the Chairman and Directors of the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, and marked "Tender for Steel Work," must be left with the Managing Director, not later than noon of Tuesday, the 27th June.

The Company are not bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

A charge, which will not be returned, will be made of 10*s.* for each copy of the specification.

Copies of the drawings may be obtained at the office of Sir George B. Bruce, 3, Victoria Street, Westminster, on payment of 10*s.* per set.

Spring Steel and Steel Wire.

The East Indian Railway Company are prepared to receive tenders for the supply and delivery of—

1. Spring steel;
2. Galvanised steel wire;

as per specifications to be seen at the Company's Offices, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

Tenders are to be sent to the Secretary, marked "Tender for Spring Steel," or as the case may be, not later than noon on Wednesday, the 28th June.

The Company reserve the right to divide the order, also to

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

decline any tender without assigning a reason, and do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Fees, which cannot under any circumstances be returned, are charged for each specification, as under, viz. :—For No. 1, 21*s.*, and for No. 2, 10*s.* 6*d.*

Railway Stores.

The Directors of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company are prepared to receive tenders for the supply of the following stores, namely:—Steelwork and ironwork for bridges; galvanised wrought-iron water tubes; brass sheets and copper pipes; screw couplings, drawgear, &c.; paints, drysalteries, &c.; brass and iron screws and split pins; miscellaneous articles and materials; lorry wheels, axles, &c.

Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's Offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, London, E.C., on payment of the fee for the specification, which payment will not be returned.

Tenders must be delivered in sealed envelopes, addressed to the Secretary, marked "Tender for Steelwork and Ironwork for Bridges," or as the case may be, not later than 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 29th June.

The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Enquiries relating to British Indian Trade.

The following enquiries have been received at the India Trade Enquiry Office, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., whence further information regarding them may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A Scotch firm of steel and steel wire manufacturers are desirous of establishing an agency in Calcutta and Bombay for the sale of their products, such as aerial tramways, suspension bridges, haulage and winding plant for mines, &c., and for all classes of wire ropes.

A firm of pump and general engineers are desirous of appointing an agent for the sale of their manufactures in Madras and the Madras Presidency.

Note.—For further information relating to the above, application should be made to the India Trade Enquiry Office, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

Artificial Fertilizers.

According to the "Times of India," the Inspector-General of Agriculture in India has addressed all local directors of agriculture, making suggestions for experiments in manuring cotton. The proposal is to ascertain at the various experimental stations the most suitable form of manure for each class of soil and the best method of application. Superphosphates and sulphate of ammonia and other artificial fertilisers are to be tried as well as natural aids.

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA.

Enquiries relating to Canadian Trade.

The following were among the recent enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the **Canadian Government Offices, Victoria Street, S.W.**, whence further information regarding them may be obtained :—

Home Enquiries.—A firm doing a wholesale butter trade have asked to be placed in communication with a few good butter shippers in Canada, with a view to securing direct shipments.

A Canadian representative is being sought by a firm of Scotch distillery agents and blenders.

An English firm manufacturing high class mineral waters, fruit syrups, cordials, essences, &c., are seeking a suitable agent with a view to extending their connection in Canada.

Canadian Enquiries.—Enquiry is made by a Montreal correspondent for names of manufacturers in Great Britain of jute cloth suitable for flour feed, seeds, wheat, cement, &c.

A Toronto agent asks for names of brass bedsteads and linoleum makers, with a view to securing their representation in Canada.

A New Brunswick dairy company owning several cheese and butter factories, enquire for makers of butter cans in which to pack butter for export.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, Victoria Street, S.W.

Enquiries relating to Canadian Trade.

The following enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Government Trade Enquiry Office, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.**, whence further information regarding them may be obtained :—

Home Enquiries.—A manufacturer of wire rope wishes to develop trade in Canada.

A company manufacturing linseed oil are prepared to negotiate for the sale of it in Canada, both raw and boiled.

A firm manufacturing arc lamp lowering gear and other electrical specialities ask to be placed in communication with Canadian firms interested in these goods.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Canadian Government Trade Enquiry Office, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Artificial Fertilizers.

The Canadian Commercial Agent at Melbourne (Mr. D. H. Ross) reports that artificial fertilizers have had a very large sale during the past year. Farmers all over Australia are using them in increased quantities. They are largely imported from Great Britain, although

considerable quantities have come in from Japan recently, as well as guano from the deposits in the Pacific Islands. About one-third of the amount required is made locally, and as farmers are finding the locally made article most satisfactory, they are giving it preference, and preparations are being made in South Australia and Victoria to largely increase the local output.

NATAL.

Materials for Wharf Construction.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade have been notified by their Correspondent at Durban (Mr. A. D. C. Agnew), that the Natal Government intend to complete with all despatch a wharf 2,000 feet in length along part of the lands known as Congella Lands, and the reclamation of these lands is now being carried out.

Cement.

Referring to the notice on p. 392 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 2nd March last, the successful tenderers for the erection of the new Municipal Buildings at Durban, are stated in the "Natal Mercury" to be Messrs. Cornelius & Hollis, of that city, for the sum of 237,945*l*., the building to be in part stone and part cement.

Local stone is to be utilised. British cement, however, is to be used, and the amount required may be estimated from the cost of the frontages to be carried out in cement plaster work, which is calculated at 18,000*l*.

EGYPT.

Purchase of Old Railway Material.

A communication has been received at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade from the Administration of the Egyptian State Railways notifying that tenders for the purchase of old railway material will be received by the Administration until the 10th July. Tenders, made out on stamped paper of 30 millièmes, should be placed in envelopes bearing the inscription "Offre pour vieux matériaux," and addressed to "M. le Président, Chemins de Fer de l'Etat, Cairo."

Conditions of tender, with list of the materials to be sold, can be obtained from Lieut.-Col. Western, R.E., C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., upon payment of 2*s*. per copy. A copy may also be inspected at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

Openings for British Trade.

RUSSIA—POLAND.

Textile Machinery: Cotton Yarns.

An article on the state of the textile industry in Poland will be found on pp. 540–1, in which H.M. Consul-General at Warsaw (Colonel A. P. Murray) calls attention to the numerous enquiries for new textile machinery and sundries, and also to the scarcity of certain kinds of cotton yarn.

RUSSIA—FINLAND.

Auction Sales of Timber.

In connection with the announcement published in the "Board of Trade Journal" of 8th June, respecting certain forthcoming sales by auction of logs from the Finnish Government forests, H.M. Consul at Helsingfors (Mr. C. J. Cooke) has now forwarded a copy of the official Finnish Gazette containing detailed information as to these sales, which may be consulted at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

H.M. Consul has also forwarded a supplementary list of public auctions of logs (chiefly red and white wood) in the Grand Duchy of Finland, as follows:—

On the 19th August at "Jyväskylä," 140,756 logs from the districts of Vasa and Jämsä.

On the 21st at Tammerfors, 172,110 logs from the district of Abo, and 5,000 cubic metres of firewood (birch) from that of Kankaanpää.

On the 26th at Viborg, 102,996 logs from the St. Michel district, and 27,200 cubic metres of firewood.

On the 26th at Kuspio, 9,680 logs from Idensalmi district, and on the 29th at Joensuu, 2,216 logs from Kuspio district.

There will thus be sold a total of 1,867,928 logs, 24,000 cubic metres of pulp-wood, and 32,200 cubic metres of firewood.

Detailed particulars (in Swedish) of these auctions may also be seen at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

DENMARK.

Army Clothing Supplies.

The "Berlingske Tidende" of the 14th June contains a notice calling for tenders for the supply to the Danish Army Clothing depôt of various quantities of cloth, gold and silver lace, tassels, hats, metal distinction marks, &c.

Tenders will be received up to 10 a.m. on the 29th June, at the offices of the Army Supply Department ("Materielintendanturens Kontor") 11, Rigensgade, Copenhagen, where samples and con-

Openings for British Trade.

ditions may be inspected on any day between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. A list in Danish of the articles required, with quantities, may be seen at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

BELGIUM.

Port Works.

The "Moniteur des Intérêts Matériels" of 16th June announces that tenders, which will be opened on 27th July, at the "Direction du service spécial de la côte, 1 square Stéphanie, Ostend," are invited for the construction of a quay wall on the eastern side of the dry dock, and of a water wing in the wet dock at the port of Blankerberghe, at the upset price of 647,379 frs. (about 25,895*l.*).

Specifications (No. 63, price 60 centimes) and plans (price 7 frs.) may be obtained from the above address. Tenders will be received until the 23rd July, a deposit of 32,000 fr. (about 1,280*l.*) being required to qualify any tender.

SPAIN.

Submarine Telegraph Materials.

With reference to the notification on p. 387 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 1st June of a Royal Order sanctioning the expenditure of 290,000 pesetas (about 8,772*l.*) on carrying out repairs to submarine cables, it is noted that the "Gaceta de Madrid" of 12th June contains a notice inviting tenders, which will be opened 15 days after the publication of the notice, at the Directorate-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Madrid, for carrying out these repairs, in accordance with conditions set forth in the "Gaceta." A deposit of 10,000 pesetas (about 602*l.*) is required to qualify any tender.

Electric Cranes.

The "Gaceta" of 16th June contains a notice inviting tenders, which will be opened on 15th September, at the offices of the Port Works Board, Alicante, for the supply of two electric cranes, with a capacity of 10,000 and 1,500 kilogs. respectively, fitted with revolving cages, in accordance with conditions, &c., on view at the above-mentioned offices, at the upset price of 107,010 pesetas (about 3,222*l.*). A deposit of 1,500 pesetas (about 45*l.*) is required to qualify any tender.

N.B.—It is notified from H.M. Embassy at Madrid that a foreigner, when entering into contracts for the performance of public works in Spain, must renounce by public act all rights to which he might be entitled by virtue of the law of his own country in so far as his contract is concerned, and accept any administrative decisions that may be issued respecting questions arising from that contract.

In entering into such contracts a local agent is a practical necessity.

Openings for British Trade.

ITALY—SICILY.

Railway Construction.

According to the report for 1904 of H.M. Consul at Palermo (Mr. Sidney Churchill), the principal railway lines projected in Sicily are the following:—(1) Castelvetrano-Menfi-Sciacca, connecting with the Trapani system; (2) Sciacca-Porto Empedocle, joining the Sicula trunk line; (3) Assoro-Piazza Armerina, connecting with the Sicula; (4) Paterno-Nicosia, connection with the Etna Railway; (5) San Carlo-Sciacca, connecting with Corleone Railway.

For the San Carlo-Sciacca narrow-gauge line the Government offers a concession of 70 years with a kilometric subsidy of 8,500 fr. For the Paterno-Nicosia line the subsidy per kilometre has been raised to 7,500 fr. All further particulars regarding the conditions of the contracts can be obtained on direct application to the Minister of Public Works at Rome. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,396.)

BULGARIA.

Arms and Ammunition.

The Acting British Vice-Consul at Varna (Lieut.-Col. P. Massy) remarks in his recent report that the Near East has become an excellent market in arms and ammunition for France, Germany and Austria-Hungary, although the share of the United Kingdom is trifling. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,395.)

SERVIA.

Building Construction.

The "Moniteur des Intérêts Matériels" (Brussels), of 16th June, states that tenders will be opened on 8th July, at the Ministry of Public Works, Belgrade, for the construction of a palace for the National Assembly, at the estimated cost of 2,079,700 frs. (about 83,184*l.*).

OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

Tramway Construction in Asia Minor.

On pp. 545-6 will be found an article giving particulars of the existing tramway lines in the chief towns of Asia Minor, together with remarks on possible openings for the construction of fresh lines.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

List of Articles needed by the Isthmian Canal Commission.

Adverting to the notice published on p. 438 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 8th June, respecting a list of articles needed by the Isthmian Canal Commission, H.M. Consul at Panama (Mr. C. C. Mallet, C.M.G.), has now forwarded a further list of articles for which the purchasing agent of the Commission will soon call for tenders.

This list may be examined at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

Openings for British Trade.

MEXICO.

Automobiles.

From a report drawn up by the Belgian Legation in Mexico City, it appears that the use of automobiles in that city shows a steady increase, although the area within which these vehicles can circulate is somewhat limited, owing to the poor state of most of the roads in the State of Mexico and the Federal District. The authorities have lately carried out some improvements on the roads in the immediate vicinity of the capital, and it is rumoured that they intend to reconstruct the old Spanish highways to Cuernavaca and Toula. The carrying out of these works is likely to increase the demand for automobiles, of which there are said to be over 400 in the city.

The general opinion in Mexico is that American are more suitable than French tyres for bad roads and hard wear; the former are, however, the more costly. The favourite cars are electric voiturettes, sold at 160*l.* to 200*l.*, and a car of American manufacture of from 8 to 15 horse-power.

Railway Plant.

The Mexican "Diario Oficial" of 23rd May contains the text of a concession granted to Señor Eugeñio J. Canas for the construction and working, for 99 years, of a railway (60 centimetre gauge) from Zacatepec to Jojutla or Tlaquitenango, in the State of Morelos, with a branch line to the Hacienda de San Nicolas. Two years are allowed for the free importation of materials and goods referred to in Article 74 of the Railway Law.

CUBA.

Candles.

In a recent report by the Belgian Consul-General at Havana he points out that the imports of candles into Cuba, which formerly came almost exclusively from Spain, owing to the preferential tariff enjoyed by that country's wares, are now to some extent divided amongst other nations. But although the imports of these goods from Spain show a large diminution, even now they form by far the largest portion of the total of candles imported. Spanish candles are inferior to those sent from other countries, but they are cheap and greatly in demand amongst the poorer classes, who are still influenced by the vogue they enjoyed at the time when they practically monopolised the market. M. Renoz remarks that American manufacturers forward their goods in bulk packed in wooden cases each containing 360 candles. This method is worth following, he adds, as it results in a saving of packing expenses, import duties, and even freight charges when these latter are based on cubic capacity.

Openings for British Trade.

GUATEMALA.

Hardware.

H.M. Consul at Quezaltenango (Mr. C. Fleischmann) states in his recent report that whilst in dry goods imported into his district the United Kingdom holds a very fair share of the trade, in hardware there ought still to be a very fair opening for British traders. It does not pay well to send commercial travellers there, but the beautifully made up catalogues of hardware and novelties with which merchants are flooded from the United States and Germany are missed from traders in the United Kingdom, and many orders go to the United States or Germany which might easily be secured for the British manufacturer.

This is the opinion given to Mr. Fleischmann by a prominent merchant at Quezaltenango, who suggests that by liberally sending out catalogues (in Spanish, with metric weights and measures) to traders there, a number of articles might be brought before the eyes of interested persons, who would be glad to order goods of many descriptions from the United Kingdom which are now imported from the United States and Germany. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series,* 3,400.)

BRAZIL.

Railway Construction.

H.M. Consul-General at Rio de Janeiro (Mr. C. B. Rhind) has forwarded to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade the text of a Decree of the Government of the State of Rio de Janeiro, granting a concession for the construction of a railway from Rio Dourado to the bar of the S. Yoas river: gauge, one metre; extent, 20 kilometres. The line to be completed in one year from the date of initiation of the work, which must be within nine months from the 17th May.

JAPAN.

Hemp and Flax.

According to a report by the Canadian Commercial Agent at Yokohama (Mr. Alexander MacLean), the hemp and flax manufacturing interests in Japan are in straits for the supply of raw material. There are only two companies engaged in the manufacture, but they are in a comparatively large way of working, and they are represented by the native press as having to resort to every conceivable means to meet even the war requirements alone. Moreover their present difficulty is expected to increase on account of the displacement of flax-growing in favour of oats, enormous quantities of which are required for army purposes, and whilst the war continues this will be a prevailing condition, because the northern Japanese farmer finds oats at present a more profitable product than flax.

Openings for British Trade.

EXHIBITION.

BRAZIL.

Commercial Museum in Rio de Janeiro.

The "Bollettino delle Finanze" (Rome) reports that a school of commercial instruction has recently been founded in Rio de Janeiro with the aid of Government support, under the supervision of Count Mendès d'Almeida, editor of the "Jornal do Brazil." As an annex to this school, it is proposed to establish a commercial museum, where samples of foreign goods likely to find a sale in Brazil will be exhibited.

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Spain.—In a recent report by the French Vice-Consul at Carthagena (M. Marius André), he gives the following information as to the methods adopted by the Germans to secure a footing on the Spanish market. That these methods are eminently successful is proved, he remarks, by the statistics of imports into Spain from Germany, compared with those from France and the United Kingdom. M. André continues:—

"The successes obtained by German industry and commerce in Spain are due to methods similar to those employed by them in other foreign countries. They have been described in innumerable books and pamphlets published in England and France, and hardly a week passes without attention being called to them by some British or French Consul. Certain facts, however, are of sufficient importance to bear continued repetition.

"In order to capture trade it is not only necessary to manufacture articles of good quality; it does not suffice even to quote lower rates than those for similar articles furnished by competitors; it is essential to make your goods known to traders, to modify them, if need be, in accordance with the tastes of the country, and to demonstrate the advantages they possess over the wares of your rivals. Germans make excellent commercial travellers, displaying great tenacity and patience. They do not confine their visits to populous centres and to firms likely to give large orders; no business is beneath their notice, as they consider that a small order may lead to a large one, and that, in any case, a series of minor orders prove profitable in the long run. Many a time have I met these humble missionaries of German expansion journeying to insignificant towns in Spain and Portugal, where their French and British rivals have never set foot. Laden with boxes of samples, they bear a strong resemblance to the pedlars

British Trade Abroad.

one meets hawking cigar cases, spectacles, and sham jewellery. On their way from Germany to Portugal they obtain orders in Switzerland, Italy, the South of France, and Spain, for they speak fluently the four languages of these countries. The cheapness of their goods appeals to small traders, and in the event of hesitation they generally clinch the deal with the concession of a term of credit far longer than French travellers grant. . . . .

"The French exporter is generally timid of embarking on expenditure in order to secure trade: he imagines that if he obtains the address of a good representative from his Consul extensive business will immediately result. Here is a characteristic instance: a large French firm of scent manufacturers write to the Consul asking him to recommend a representative, but they insist that he shall communicate with them at fixed dates, even when he has no orders to send; they will not forward samples, because, they say, it is useless to do so, but, in reality, because they are loth to incur even a slight expense before reaping profit; and, moreover, when applying for a representative, they ask to be supplied with the addresses of all likely purchasers of perfumes in the town, in the hope of dealing directly with them, and thus forestalling their agent.

"I cannot insist too strongly on the futility of such methods of doing business, and by way of contrast I point out the tactics of their rivals. A German exporter would not only have forwarded samples, but would have sent an agent with them to select a local representative. I believe it is not generally known that big firms of exporters from Germany have in many instances two classes of agents for the same foreign town: the representative established there, in constant touch with clients, and the traveller who calls on firms once or twice a year accompanied by this representative to whom he brings fresh samples, together with exhaustive information as to the prices and qualities of the most recent products of the firm. He is at the same time able to gather from the local agent details of the tastes of the inhabitants and the fashions in vogue, as well as first-hand information as to the financial standing of clients. These methods undoubtedly entail a large expenditure, which is, however, amply justified by their success."

M. André adds that the Belgians, working on the same lines as the Germans, have proved equally successful, their exports to Spain having quadrupled in thirty years.

TRADE OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

The following summary table has been prepared in the Board of Trade, showing the total imports and exports of merchandise of the principal countries for which the particulars can be given up to March, 1905, inclusive, and referring in all cases to the same period, viz., the three months ended March. The corresponding figures for 1904 and 1903 are added for comparison :—

—	Imports (*see* NOTE that follows tables). Three Months ended March.			Exports (Domestic) (*see* NOTE that follows tables). Three Months ended March.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Germany	75,555,000	80,347,000	80,321,000	59,234,000	62,065,000	63,974,000
Belgium*	23,657,000	26,832,000	28,221,000	18,545,000	19,031,000	20,289,000
France...	63,412,000	60,739,000	59,734,000	52,175,000	54,028,000	53,459,000
Switzerland	10,757,000	11,235,000	11,721,000	8,780,000	8,810,000	9,093,000
Spain*...	8,025,000	7,994,000	9,023,000	7,797,000	8,062,000	7,586,000
Italy	18,671,000	19,276,000	19,393,000	15,655,000	13,891,000	14,533,000
Austria-Hungary ...	19,496,000	21,797,000	22,350,000	20,276,000	21,261,000	19,138,000
Egypt	3,954,000	4,398,000	4,965,000	5,893,000	7,455,000	5,647,000
United States... ...	55,006,000	54,783,000	64,975,000	79,894,000	77,956,000	75,609,000
Japan	8,467,000	9,408,000	13,231,000	6,067,000	7,084,000	7,231,000
British India... ...	13,786,000	15,689,000	16,473,000	25,653,000	30,016,000	27,815,000
Canada	10,883,000	11,248,000	11,714,000	7,733,000	6,683,000	6,588,000
United Kingdom ...	115,956,000	119,836,000	119,032,000	72,787,000	72,230,000	78,330,000

* Value of *principal* articles only.

A comparison of the total figures for the four months ended 30th April is possible for four countries, as follows, viz.:—

—	Imports (*see* NOTE). Four Months ended April.			Exports (Domestic) (*see* NOTE). Four Months ended April.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Belgium*	31,847,000	35,399,000	37,352,000	24,580,000	25,556,000	26,963,000
France...	66,905,000	64,666,000	64,835,000	55,988,000	57,739,000	59,329,000
United States ...	73,273,000	72,184,000	84,899,000	102,330,000	100,346,000	101,888,000
United Kingdom ...	153,132,000	158,253,000	155,966,000	95,924,000	95,715,000	102,468,000

* Value of *principal* articles only.

NOTE.—In the case of Germany, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria-Hungary, Egypt, Japan, Canada *and United Kingdom*, the import figures given in the above summaries represent imports for home consumption only, *i.e.*, excluding re-exports. In all cases the export figures are intended to represent exports of domestic produce. In most cases, however, they include a certain amount of "nationalised" goods, *i.e.*, goods originally imported for consumption, and which, if dutiable, have been charged with duty, but which are subsequently re-exported.

Trade of Foreign Countries and British Possessions.

The latest figures available as regards other countries from which returns are received by the Board of Trade, are as follow:—

—	Imports.			Exports (Domestic).		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Russia* (12 months)...	55,844,000	63,609,000	61,608,000	87,127,000	100,243,000	100,806,000
Portugal (11 months)..	11,382,000	12,212,000	12,777,000	5,915,000	6,332,000	6,389,000
	1903	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Mexico† (1 month) ...	1,195,000	1,315,000	1,538,000	1,307,000	1,784,000	1,632,000

* European and Black Sea Frontiers.

† The values of the imports are stated in gold, and the dollar has been converted into English currency at the rate of 4*s*. The values of the exports are stated in silver, and the dollar has been converted into English currency for the years 1903, 1904, and 1905, at 1*s*. 8*d*., 1*s*. 10*d*. and 2*s*. respectively. The figures for Mexico include bullion and specie.

For detailed particulars regarding the trade of the several countries, reference should be made to the "Accounts relating to the Trade and Commerce of certain Foreign Countries and British Possessions," including figures received up to 31st May, to be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, E.C.

STATE OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN POLAND.

A despatch dated 12th June has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at Warsaw (Col. A. P. Murray) enclosing a report embodying information obtained by him at Lodz, Czenstochowa and Bialystok, as to the present state of the textile industry in Poland of which those places are the chief centres.

"The year 1905 opened with prospects of general improvement in trade, particularly in the textile industry, which is the most important in this Consular district and that in which Great Britain is chiefly interested. The outbreak of the war had upset the general trade of the country, one result of which was to restrict credits and dispel confidence amongst manufacturers and merchants. The natural consequence of this was to pull up a great many of the weaker firms who had been trading beyond their means. As the war dragged on, however, people began to get used to it as a thing that had to be, and gradually settled down to business again.

"Buyers had evidently held off as long as they could, and were becoming compelled to replenish their stocks which were exhausted, and a general feeling that the worst was over and that better times were coming began to prevail amongst manufacturers in this district.

"This comfortable feeling was, however, rudely broken in upon towards the end of January by a general strike of the workers.

"Absolutely all mills and works were shut down for three or four weeks, that is to say, during the month of February, and since

State of Textile Industry in Poland.

then, intermittent stoppages of one mill or another have kept the struggle going up to the present, so that, although the situation is better than it was, it cannot yet be considered as altogether normal.

"One result of these labour troubles has been to bring about a shortage of goods so that the immediate outlook is promising if only a satisfactory understanding can be come to between the mill owners and their employees. . . . .

"The state of trade is considerably better than it was; it is expected that it will go on improving, and that after peace is declared there will be a 'boom' in all branches of trade. This is likely to last for a few years during which time the mill owners will pretty certainly increase their productive capacity. But it is well to bear in mind that the firms most likely to extend are not the big mill owners, but rather the smaller firms who will probably suffer subsequently from the over production that is sure to follow. The big mill owners bought their experience in this respect five years ago, and are not likely to be caught again.

"The 'boom' is not likely to last more than four to five years, and will be followed most probably by the usual collapse that is brought about by over production and over speculation. The Polish industrial district is more likely to suffer in this direction than those of Moscow and St. Petersburg for the reason that, with few exceptions, the firms are younger and have not the same resources.

"There are already numerous enquiries for new **machinery** and sundries, and a good proportion of the consequent orders ought to go to British firms.

"Certain kinds of **cotton yarns** are already scarce, for instance, 20*s*. to 30*s*. water twist, and 20*s*. 2*d*., 30*s*. 2*d*., 40*s*. 2*d*., and 44*s*. 2*d*. twisted yarns, and it is expected that this scarcity will be kept up for some time to come, as most of the spinners are already producing all they possibly can, and are still not able to satisfy the demands they are getting. In some instances mills are even working with a double set of hands.

"A feature in the Polish textile industry is that some of the older and larger firms are allowing themselves to be passed by their younger competitors. This is owing to bad organisation and divided responsibility. When they were managed by the original founders, men who had every detail at their fingers ends, and who worked the business as a whole, they made all the departments work together for the good of all; but now that each department is managed by a separate director there are several influences at work where formerly there was only one, and there is no one man who can possibly pick up the threads of the business that fell from the hands of the original founder, the son or nominal owner of the business, when there is one, not having worked up the business from the bottom. . . . ."

COTTON GROWING IN THE EASTERN PROVINCES OF PERSIA.

In the reports from Persia by the Commercial Mission which recently visited that country from India, references are made to the question of cotton growing in that country.

In the Provinces of Sirjan and Rafsinjan the opinion is expressed that cotton can be grown profitably in both.

Mr. Newcomen writes from **Bunder Abbas**:—"The clean cotton is made up in bundles and packed in bags unpressed. The unclean cotton comes down in half-pressed bales, measuring 3 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. on the average, and weighing from 2 to 3 maunds (Delhi). The freightage on cleaned cotton from this port to Bombay is about Rs. 4 per bale, and uncleaned Rs. 3. The cleaned cotton costs here about Rs. 27 per Delhi maund and the uncleaned cotton Rs. 18, making the average cost for each variety in Bombay Rs. 31 and Rs. 21, so I am informed, but I have no figures to check or to verify this statement.

"Formerly there used to be a large export trade in cotton through this port from the interior, but this has of late years been diverted northward through the Caspian ports to Russia, where a strong demand has grown up. The comparatively greater ease and security of the northward route through Shahrud to the Caspian ports had also done much to assist in this diversion of trade. Lately, however, owing to the war and to internal depression, the Russian demand has fallen off, and if a strong Indian demand arises the southward trade to this port is certain to revive."

In regard to cotton from the **Sirjan** district, however, Mr. Newcomen writes later from Saiidabad:—"The Sirjan district produces some 2,000 maunds (Indian) a year. All this is consumed locally, either in the manufacture of a coarse, thin cloth, of which about 100,000 zer are used a year, or for the woof for carpets. There are no prospects of increasing the cultivation of cotton, as the water supply is limited and food-crops have to be raised. The staple too, is short, too short, I think, for use in our Indian mills."

Again from **Kerman**, Mr. Newcomen writes:—"Three thousand kharwars are produced, of which 500 are used at home, the rest being exported mainly north, through Shahrud to Russia. The proportion of the cotton sent north, as compared with that going to India *via* Bunder Abbas, has for many years been as 9 to 1, and this, notwithstanding the greater cost of carriage to Shahrud (13 to 20 tomans per kharwar) as compared with that to Bunder Abbas (6½ to 12 tomans per kharwar). This difference in the cost of carriage is due, apart from the greater length of the Shahrud journey, to the fact that camels going to Shahrud have mostly to return empty, whilst those going to Bunder Abbas can always find cargoes to carry back. The prices offering in the north have

Cotton Growing in the Eastern Provinces of Persia.

not been much more enticing than those offering in the south. Seventy to 90 tomans per kharwar at Shahrud as compared with 60 to 80 tomans at Bunder Abbas, whilst the rates of carriage to the north are, of course, very much greater. There has so far been a strong demand in the north, whilst demand was weak in the south. This northern demand was always more or less artificial (see Mr. H. W. MacLean's* report, page 34, paragraph 54), and the war has caused a slump, which has ruined many of the smaller merchants. Northern caravans are now returning with last year's cotton, consequently it is anticipated that much of this will be sent down to Bunder Abbas. The cotton is short stapled, but an improvement, I think, on the cotton of Sirjan. There is, it is declared, a possibility of the cultivation being increased, should demand increase.

"The cotton season extends, as in Sirjan, from April to October, and the methods of cultivation are the same in both places. Attempts have been made to introduce a long stapled cotton, but these have failed so far, owing, it is stated, to the summer being so short. There are at present some four cotton presses in Bahramabad, but there is no room for the establishment of a ginning mill. An American ginning machine has been tried, but turned out a failure, as it broke the staple and made the cotton almost useless. Hence cotton is hand-cleaned as in parts of India, but the exported cotton is mostly sent out in a half-cleaned condition.

"Ten maunds of cotton pods yield about 3 maunds of maluj (half cleaned cotton), and those 3 maunds yield about 2½ maunds of finest cleaned. The local cost of the maluj is from 35 to 38 tomans per kharwar.

"For export this is packed in sacks and half pressed bales for convenience of carriage. Camels take from 50 to 70, and donkeys from 24 to 34 maunds (Tabriz)."

In a later report from **Bam** Mr Newcomen writes:—"Raw cotton, sown March—April, picked October—November. Crop 100,000 maunds (Tabriz), yielding 30,000 maunds of cleaned cotton. Price spot 37 to 38 tomans per Kharvar cleaned. This has so far all been used at home. This year, however, Arab Ardeshir sent a trial shipment of 3,000 maunds to Bombay."

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* "British Trade in Persia." [Cd. 2146.] Price 1*s.* 3*d.* Obtainable from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C.

Toman = 2½ rupees. Kharwar = 5·8 cwt. Maund (Tabriz) = 6½ lbs. avoir. Zer varies from 25 to 44 inches. The Zer in general use measures 40·95 inches. Imperial Indian maund = about 82⅔ lbs.

COTTON GROWING IN COLOMBIA.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a memorandum by the British Vice-Consul at Bogota (Mr. Spencer S. Dickson) on the subject of the planting and cultivation of cotton in the Republic of Colombia, from which the following particulars are extracted:—

Replying to Mr. Dickson's questions, the British Vice-Consul at **Medellin** (Mr. William Gordon) states that although up to the present time cotton cultivation in his district has only been undertaken in a very insignificant way, the soil is decidedly suitable for it, the cotton plant growing wild in the interior. He adds that two kinds of cotton can be produced. Mr. Gordon transmits samples* of these two varieties, of which No. 1 grows wild and No. 2 is a cultivated specimen.

In a communication received from Mr. Mansel Carr, British Vice-Consul at **Santa Marta**, he stated that his experimental crop had proved a failure, owing, in his opinion, to the soil being too rich and moist. The crop was a very heavy one, so that the branches and even the plants themselves bent over with the weight, but the bolls failed to mature properly, a fact which he is unable to account for satisfactorily. It may be that Riofrio is too far from the sea for the successful cultivation of the sea-island variety of cotton. Mr. Carr has now given some of the seed to a native planter who is going to try it in the neighbourhood, where the soil is lighter and reached by the sea breezes.

Mr. Dickson's enquiries have, thus far, elicited information regarding a portion of the Atlantic coast and the department of Antioquia. The prospects in Santa Marta are still dependent upon the result of future experiments in Antioquia (district of Medellin), as also in the interior generally, but there is little doubt that the soil is favourable to cotton planting. For exporting purposes, however, there lies a serious obstacle in the poor and expensive means of communication with the coast, and this will only be remedied when the country is opened up by railway communication. Of this there is now some hope, as a contract for the opening of a railway from the Darien to Medellin has just been granted to an American. There remains the Cartagena district, and according to information received, this region possesses two distinct advantages, *i.e.*, the adaptability of the soil, and the Cartagena railway, which provides an easy and rapid means of access to the shipping port.

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* These samples may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

TRAMWAYS IN ASIA MINOR.

The following particulars of existing tramway lines in Asia Minor, with remarks on possible openings for the construction of fresh lines, are taken from a report by M. J. Duckerts, Belgian Consul-General at Smyrna, based on observations made by him during a series of tours of inspection undertaken at the request of the Belgian Government.

The only towns in Asiatic Turkey possessing tramways are Smyrna, Tripoli and Bagdad.

In **Smyrna** the "Compagnie des Quais" work an animal traction line, 3½ kiloms. long, between the Aïdin railway station and the Government House. A tramway belonging to native capitalists continues this line for a distance of 5 kiloms., terminating beyond the thickly inhabited suburb of Gueuz-Tepe. In 1903, the Municipality of Smyrna inaugurated a branch, 1,500 metres in length, from the first-named line to Halka Bounar. At various times the question of constructing a tramway in the interior of the town has been mooted. The streets in this quarter are, however, so narrow and tortuous that numerous demolitions would have to be undertaken; the cost of these has been estimated at 800,000 fr. This heavy charge would naturally handicap the enterprise; but, nevertheless, it is believed that it would prove a financial success. Suggestions have also been made for extending the Gueuz-Tepe line as far as Vurla and Chesine: the first-named town is situated 45 kiloms. and the second more than 100 kiloms. from the existing terminus. For such distances as these it would be necessary to resort to steam or electricity. Until 1902 the use of electricity for this purpose was forbidden in Turkey: its application to traction and lighting is now allowed in Salonica, Smyrna, and Damascus, and the substitution of electric for animal traction has been considered. Horses are, however, very cheap in Smyrna; the tramway companies hardly ever pay more than £8 a head for them, selling them for half price at the end of three years' work, while the cost of a horse's keep is covered by 6d. a day.

Tripoli is divided into two parts: the harbour and the inner town, distant about 3 kiloms. from one another. These are connected by a tramway (a native enterprise), the material for which was imported from the United Kingdom. Although the fare for the whole distance is only five centimes, the returns show large profits.

Bagdad is connected with Kamazene by a tramway 8 kiloms. long, constructed in 1871, belonging to a native company, the shares of which, issued at £T2½, are now worth £T10. Belgian material was originally used on this line; this has now been partially replaced by British and German material. The fare for the whole distance is 20 centimes. A scheme for constructing another tramway 10 kiloms. long in Bagdad, under the auspices of a native company, is said to be well advanced.

Tramways in Asia Minor.

M. Duckerts makes the following remarks on the possibilities of constructing new lines in the towns he visited :—

"It would not be impossible to extend the **Smyrna** system, although very considerable expense would be incurred owing to the number of streets that would have to be widened; but as regards extensions outside the town it is a question whether sufficient traffic would result.

"The town of **Broussa** is very hilly. I have, however, seen tramways worked under much more difficult conditions, more especially in Belgrade. As the railway station is some distance from the towns, it might perhaps prove more profitable to construct a few kiloms. of electric tramway. Broussa is only 40 kiloms. from the sea, and is connected by railway with the port of Mudania; fuel could thus be obtained at moderate cost, and I am moreover assured that the waters of the river running through the town could be utilised for the production of motive power.

"**Aleppo.** In the old town the streets are narrow and tortuous to a degree which renders circulation difficult, if not impossible for ordinary vehicles; it is therefore out of the question to think of running a tramway.

"The modern town, on the other hand, has some very large thoroughfares; it should be noted, however, that this quarter is at present thinly populated, and that the houses are very scattered, so that it would be premature to entertain the idea of establishing a new means of transport.

"**Beyrouth** is a hilly town, ill adapted to tramway construction; but my remarks concerning Broussa are applicable here. With the help of a narrow gauge, light rolling stock and electric traction, the confined streets and steep inclines should not prove insurmountable obstacles. The same remarks apply to **Jerusalem**.

"**Damascus** seems to me a more favourable field for enterprise. The town is very scattered; the Hawran railway station is very remote from the Beyrouth railway station, and traffic is very heavy along the whole of the route between the two.

"The town of **Bassorah** is connected with the harbour by a paved road, 3 kiloms. long, admirably adapted for the installation of a tramway. The stream of traffic along this road is great; but it would be necessary to reckon with the competition of asses, omnibuses and carriages, with extremely low tariffs. However, the tramways at Tripoli make large profits, although they charge only 5 centimes a head for a distance of 3 kiloms.; similar conditions obtain at Bagdad when a journey of 8 kiloms. only costs 20 centimes. It must be remembered that the purchase and keep of horses cost infinitely less than in Europe, that most primitive material can be utilised, and that wages are extremely low."

TARIFF CHANGES

AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

NEW ZEALAND.

Production of Original Manufacturers' Invoices.

The Board of Trade have received from the High Commissioner for New Zealand information to the effect that the Regulation recently made by the New Zealand Customs authorities, requiring that goods imported into New Zealand should be accompanied by the original manufacturers' invoices, has been postponed, and will not be brought into force until 1st September of the present year.

NORWAY.

Tariff Modifications (*continued from p.* 501 *of last week's "Journal"*).

[Krona = 1*s.* 1⅓*d.* Kilog. = 2·2046 lbs.]

Tariff No.	Articles.	Unit.	Rate of Duty.	
			Old.	New.
			Kron.	Kron.
	Potatoes—			
507	Fresh	100 kilogs.	Free	0·50
508	Dried	Kilog.	0·15	0·20
[704]	Polishing paste, liquid or solid (cream and paste)*	,,	15 % *ad val.*	0·30
	Travelling bags, trunks, portmanteaux, hat boxes, satchels, and similar bags and boxes for travellers—			
511	Of leather, or covered with leather	,,	2·00	2·25
512	Of oilcloth, woollen, cotton, hemp, linen or similar tissue, combined or not with leather or other materials	,,	0·80	1·00
523	Plaited manufactures of reed, cane, or bamboo	,,	0·60	0·75
[569]	All unsplit cane, further manufactured than merely cut into fixed lengths (including also material for walking-sticks and for umbrella or parasol-sticks) ...	,,	1·50	1·00

* Including weight of immediate receptacle.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

NORWAY—*continued.*

Tariff No.	Articles.	Unit.	Rate of Duty.	
			Old.	New.
			Kron.	Kron.
528	Medicinal salts	Kilog.	15 % *ad val.*	0·20
	Rushes, manufactures of—			
538	Cordage	,,	0·05	0·07
539	Other (*i.e.*, other than packing material, baskets, brooms, and brushes)	,,	0·10	0·20
	Skins weighing under 1 kilog. each*—			
548	Other than glove leather ...	,,	1·00	1·50
	Saddlery not specially mentioned—			
*ex*549	With gilt, silvered, or plated mountings	,,	2·00	4·00
551	Other, not mounted, except whips but including trusses	,,	0·80	1·00
	Shoemakers' wares—			
*ex*553	Of lacquered, shagreened, bronzed, tawed, varnished, or coloured leather, combined or not with other leather	,,	3·00	4·50
555	Of skin or leather (greased leather excepted) treated otherwise than as above ...	,,	1·75	2·00
555	Sea boots and other shoemakers' wares of greased leather	,,	1·75	1·50
	Furs—			
557–9	Undressed, of all kinds ...	,,	Various rates, according to kind.	Free
	Dressed, separate or sewn together—			
561	Pennsylvania, sable, marten	,,	4·00	8·00
	Black fox, silver fox, and blue fox	,,	0·50	
560–2	Beaver, pole-cat, chinchilla, mink, skunk ...	,,	As undressed skins with surtax of 20 %	5·00
	Other kinds	,,	0·50	1·50
*ex*563	Manufactured furs (including caps of sable, marten, and Pennsylvania skins), pay duty as dressed skins with a surtax of 200 per cent.†			
569	Walking sticks of all kinds, and fishing rods	,,	1·50	2·00
570	Mirrors	,,	0·30	0·60
573	Whetstones	,,	0·02	0·05

* Weighing *2 kilogs. or less* in the old Tariff.

† 150 per cent. in the former Tariff.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

NORWAY—*continued.*

Tariff No.	Articles.	Unit.	Rate of Duty.	
			Old.	New.
			Kron.	Kron.
*ex*576	Flagstones and pipes of cement...	100 kilogs	Various rates.	0·75
578	Castings and moulds of gypsum, chalk or the like	Kilog.	0·10	0·15
580	Manufactures of marble, porphyry, syenite, granite, labradorite, sandstone and similar stones (except paving stones and rough-hewn blocks), weighing over 3 kilogs. each; also slabs polished or not	,,	0·03	0·05
581	Other manufactures of the above-mentioned stones; also those of alabaster, "*kalipasta*" and the like	,,	0·30	0·40
584	Starch and starch gum (dextrin) and potato meal*	,,	0·10	0·13
	Straw, manufactured—			
587	Cordage	,,	0·05	0·07
588	Floor mats and other similar coarse plaited wares; also straw envelopes for bottles	,,	0·10	0·20
597	Printing inks	,,	0·05	0·07
598	Shoe blacking and other leather polish*	,,	0·10	0·15
	Stove polish*	,,	Free	
[303]	Carbonic acid, liquid	,,	0·05	0·06
	Wood and manufactures thereof—			
617	Trays, bowls, &c., weighing not over 1½ kilogs.—			
	Lacquered and polished..	,,	0·40	0·60
	Profiled mouldings	,,	not separately mentioned	0·20
620	Blocks and spools	,,	Free	0·10
623	Tables, sofas, and chairs, not upholstered; also brackets and frames for mirrors at least 1 metre in height, of pear, rosewood, walnut, mahogany, and other exotic woods, as well as those veneered with the same; also gilt, of any kind of wood...	,,	0·50	0·60
624	Other cabinet makers' wares of the same kinds of wood.	,,	0·35	0·40
ex 630	Staves, wrought, and other coopers' wares, of oak ...	,,	0·05	0·10
631	Cigar boxes and cigar-box boards	,,	0·10	0·20
[495]	Sticks for umbrellas and parasols, parts of such sticks or of walking-sticks, not further manufactured than merely cut into fixed lengths	,,	0·80	1·00

* Including weight of immediate packing.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

NORWAY—*continued.*

Tariff No.	Articles.	Unit.	Rate of Duty.	
			Old.	New.
636	Wood and manufactures—*contd.* "Other" manufactured wooden wares (*i.e.*, other than those separately mentioned in the Tariff) ...	Kilog.	0·07	0·20
	Tissues waterproofed, painted, varnished, or coated with caoutchouc, gutta-percha, or oil, or with paper-pulp—			
641	Carpets, tarpaulins; also other wares weighing 470 grammes or more to the half metre square	„	0·15	0·18
646–8	Watches, including pocket chronometers	each	5·00* 2·00† 1·00‡	1·00
649	Table clocks: duty not to exceed	„	—	12·00
	Woollen manufactures—			
656	Woollen yarn, undyed ...	kilog.	0·15	0·20
657	„ „ dyed or mixed; also all yarn mixed with metal thread	„	0·25	0·30
ex 660	Carpets and carpeting ...	„	0·50	0·60
	Hosiery, knitted, crocheted, netted or woven, dyed or not; also finished articles of clothing—			
661	Stockings, jackets, mittens, coarse	„	0·50	0·75
663	Other (except that with embroidery, &c.), including scarves of all kinds	„	1·30	1·50
664	Tissues combined with india-rubber, gutta percha or the like; and belts thereof ...	„	1·10	1·50
	"Other" woollen manufactures (*i.e.*, other than those named in the Tariff)—			
667	Tissues weighing 55 grammes or less per sq. half metre; also kerchiefs, table and other covers; tissues for furniture and curtains, such as damask, rep, plush, &c. ...	„	1·50	1·75
668	Other	„	1·00	1·50
678	Locomotives and tenders ...	„	0·08	10 % *ad val.*
679–81	Railway and tramway cars; motor vehicles of all kinds and trollies	—	Various rates	12 % „
700	Shuttles, healds, pickers and the like	kilog.	0·05	0·10

* Gold. † Silver. ‡ Other.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

SPAIN.

Rate of Exchange for Adjustment of Customs Duties payable in Gold.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 16th June contains a Royal Order notifying that the average rate of exchange (premium of exchange on Paris) during the first fortnight of June was 32·01 per cent., and that the corresponding reduction in payments of Customs duties which have to be made in gold during the second fortnight of the present month is to be 24 per cent.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Customs Decisions.

The following is the substance of some Decisions affecting the application of the United States Customs Tariff, which have recently been issued by the Treasury Department at Washington :—

Value of Mexican Dollars.—On and after 1st May, 1905, the silver dollar of Mexico will be valued at 0·498 dols. The duties on merchandise imported from countries other than Mexico, invoiced in so-called Mexican dollars, will be computed on the bullion value as heretofore.

Cuban pesos.—The Cuban peso is not a "standard coin or currency in circulation" in the sense of section 2 of the Customs Administrative Act of 1890. Invoices made out in such "pesos" will not be accepted by collectors, and American Consular officers in Cuba are instructed to refuse to certify invoices made out in Cuban pesos.

Watch bracelets.—Watches set in or mounted upon metal bracelets are not dutiable with the latter at the rate of 60 per cent. *ad valorem* under paragraph 434 of the Tariff. Watch movements imported with or without cases or mounts are dutiable at the *ad valorem* and appropriate specific rates provided in paragraph 191. Metal bracelets being commonly known as jewellery, the fact that watches may be attached thereto in any manner, permanently or temporarily, does not remove such bracelets from classification as jewellery and assessment of duty at the rate of 60 per cent. *ad valorem* under paragraph 434.

Cylinder glass—Bombés.—Pieces of cylinder glass of different dimensions between 2 and 5 inches in diameter, circular in shape and concave in form, and used as disks for bicycle lamps, dishes for painters, covers for solutions of chemicals, and for other purposes, the same undergoing no further process of manufacture after cutting from the blown glass cylinder than bevelling of the edges, are dutiable at the rate of $1\frac{3}{8}$ cents per lb. and 5 per cent. *ad valorem* under the respective provisions of paragraphs 101 and 107 of the Tariff.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—*continued.*

Also the following—

Articles.	No. of Paragraph under which dutiable.	Rate of Duty.
		Dols. Cts.
Dewghuddy hemp; dutiable as hemp	327	Ton 20 00
Soap pencils used for cleaning spectacles and eye-glasses; dutiable as an unenumerated manufactured article	Sec. 6	20 % *ad val.*
Crayons.—Charcoal crayons, or "fusains" used in drawing or sketching; dutiable as crayons ...	58	30 % „
Glass inkstands with metal covers.—Inkstands with iridescent glass bases, each fitted with an ornamental cover of heavy brass hinged to a ring of the same metal surrounding the neck of the glass base, the metal being the component material of chief value in the completed article; dutiable as unenumerated articles of metal	193	45 % „

Notice of Abandonment of Merchandise to be given in Writing.

Section 23 of the Customs Administrative Act of 1890, as amended by the Act of 17th May, 1898, requires that the abandonment of merchandise under it must be in writing, and the regulations of the Treasury Department contemplate that it should take the form of a written notice.

Amendment of Article 1276 of the Customs Regulations.

Article 1276 of the Customs regulations respecting abatement of duties paid on imported goods in cases where the weight of such goods has increased by the unusual absorption of sea water or moisture, has been modified to read as follows:—

Article 1276.—Whenever the weight of imported merchandise has apparently increased by the unusual absorption of sea water or of moisture, while on the voyage of importation, the weigher shall report the facts in making his return of weight, but no abatement of duties on merchandise on account of such excessive weight will be allowed unless due application in writing for such allowance, accompanied by the oath of the applicant, shall be lodged in the custom-house *within five days after the weigher's return has been rendered.* Previously, ten working days after the landing of the goods were allowed, within which application for abatement had to be made.

MEXICO.

New Tariff of Consular Fees.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a translation of a Mexican Presidential Decree, dated 18th May, 1905, establishing a new Tariff of fees chargeable by Mexican Consuls or Consular Agents for the certification of invoices, manifests,

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

and other documents. The new Tariff, which is to come into force on the 1st July next, is as follows :—

	Pesos.
I. For the certification of a manifest (except manifests mentioned in paragraph II.)—	
(*a*) If the vessel carries goods destined for the Republic	20·00
(*b*) If the vessel clears in ballast	8·00
II. For the certification of a manifest relating to vessels of less than 50 tons gross carrying capacity, sailing from British Honduras and bound exclusively for the territory of Quintana Roo—	
(*a*) If the vessel carries merchandise	4·00
(*b*) If the vessel clears in ballast	2·00
III. For the certification of each set of consular invoices—	
If the value of the goods declared in the invoice:	
(*a*) Does not exceed 100 pesos, Mexican currency, or the equivalent thereof in the money of the country in which the certification takes place ...	2·00
(*b*) Exceeds 100, but does not exceed 500 pesos ...	4·00
(*c*) Exceeds 500, but does not exceed 1,000 pesos...	6·00
(*d*) Exceeds 1,000 pesos: for every 1,000 pesos or fraction thereof in excess	2·00
(*e*) Should the invoice be presented for certification later than two working days after the departure of the vessel from the port of shipment, the fees indicated in the preceding paragraphs will be doubled.	
(*f*) Certification of consular invoices covering Mexican silver pesos shall be subject to the payment of the fees prescribed under paragraphs (*a*) (*b*) (*c*) and, where necessary, (*d*) of this Section (III.).	
(*g*) Certification of consular invoices covering any other kind of legal gold or silver coin, national or foreign, or current notes of the banks established in the Republic under the law respecting "*Instituciones de Crédito*": provided that these invoices include no other merchandise	Free.
IV. For a certificate issued for any other purpose to masters of vessels or shippers of goods	4·00
V. When the certificates referred to in the preceding section are required in duplicate, triplicate, &c.— for each copy after the first	2·00
VI. For the certification of each set of declarations relative to alterations which may have been made in a manifest subsequent to its legalisation ...	4·00
VII. For the certification of each set of declarations relative to errors noted by shippers subsequent to the legalisation of their invoices	4·00

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

The fees for certificates must be paid in cash, and in the currency of the country in which the Mexican Consuls or Consular Agents reside, calculated at rates of exchange to be fixed in accordance with the official table which will be published by the Ministry of Finance.

BRAZIL.

Increase of Additional Duty on Goods Imported at Rio de Janeiro.

With reference to previous notices which have appeared in the "Journal" respecting the additional duty levied at Rio de Janeiro for the construction of port works, the Board of Trade are now in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that this duty was raised on the 15th inst. to 2 per cent. (gold) on the value of imports at that port.

PANAMA.

Customs Treatment of Materials for Panama Canal.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information from H.M. Ambassador at Washington to the effect that goods for use in the construction of the Panama Canal, coming from countries other than the United States, are free of duty.

COLOMBIA.

Tariff Changes—Date of taking effect.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that the Colombian National Assembly have suppressed Art. 204 of the Colombian Constitution, which provided that no indirect tax or increase of such tax should take effect until after the lapse of six months from the passing of the law establishing such tax or increase. The Executive is thus empowered to put into force decrees relative to changes in the Customs Tariff, &c., from the date of publication thereof, without previous notice.

URUGUAY.

Valuation of Rams for Export.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that a Presidential Decree of the 12th May provides that rams are to be valued for duty on exportation from Uruguay at the rate of 2 dols. per head, instead of at 50 cents as heretofore. Export duty is levied at the rate of 8 per cent. on the official valuation.

PERSIA.

Export of Cereals from Arabistan Permitted.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a despatch from H.M. Consul at Mohammerah reporting that the prohibition against the exportation of cereals from the ports of Arabistan has been removed by the Provincial Customs Administration.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

AUSTRIA—HUNGARY.

Augmented S.S. Services to Egypt, India, and Argentina.

In a despatch to the Foreign Office, H.M. Consul at Trieste (Mr. J. B. Spence) announces several important reforms in the organisation of the Austrian Lloyds Steamship Company, the principal being as follows:—

The service to Alexandria will be twice per week, carried out by new and fast steamers (not less than 20 knots) with ample passenger accommodation.

The service to Bombay will likewise be improved, as well as that to Constantinople. The voyage to the latter place will be made in 4½ days instead of 6 days as heretofore.

Of new lines, that from Trieste to La Plata—which is now in an experimental stage—will be permanently established, and this will receive Government aid.

The Company also contemplate the improvement of the Calcutta line, also of that to China and Japan, and the continuation of the monthly service to East Africa, extending same to Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town.

For the steamers to be built, the Company are studying various new types of vessels, some of which, as an experiment, will be propelled by turbines.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

Proposed Extension of Smyrna-Aidin Railway.

The "Levant Herald" states that the Smyrna-Aidin Railway, which is almost unique, as it is run without a kilometric guarantee and at a profit, wishes to secure an extension of 104 kilometres, enabling it to reach Lake Egirdir, and to have its concession, which expires in 1935, prolonged for another 15 years. It is said also to have applied for permission to establish an Ottoman company to navigate Lake Egirdir, and for preferential rights on equal terms in the construction of any line which may be built in the future from Adalia penetrating into its district.

The Smyrna-Aidin Railway, adds the "Levant Herald," is admittedly one of the best, if not the best, managed in Turkey, and has done exceedingly good work. Since it was built, the revenues of the Smyrna district have been more than quadrupled, owing in large measure to the impetus which the railway has given both to trade and to agriculture.

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

NATAL.

Copper.

Reference to the notice on p. 462 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 8th June, the "Natal Mercury" is informed that a syndicate is in course of formation to work a large copper deposit discovered on the Buffalo River on the borders of Natal and Zululand. Assay results are stated to be most promising, and working facilities admirable.

NORWAY.

Pasvik Iron Ore Mines.

The Canadian Commercial Agent at Christiania, in a recent report, states that a contract has been concluded between the Norwegian Agricultural Department on behalf of the State and the owner of extensive iron ore claims on the Pasvik Peninsula (Finmarken), close to the Russian frontier.

The contract is to the effect that the contractor is entitled to work claims covering an area of about 21½ square miles for a royalty of 3 öre (about $\frac{2}{5}d.$) per ton of iron ore quarried and transported from the deposits, whether to be melted or to be exported in a crude condition.

In connection with the foregoing, H.M. Consul-General at Christiania (Viscount Melville, I.S.O.) reports that the contractor referred to is not the actual owner of the iron ore claims. By the Norwegian mining law the right to work most mineral deposits—essentially the metallic ones—belongs to the finder, who registers a claim in proper form, and gets the right to work a definite area around the place of finding or along the vein. The landowner has, however, the right to participate in the working for one-tenth. The Pasvik belongs to the State, which could claim from the "contractor," or finder, the one-tenth, but agreed instead to take the royalty of 3 öre mentioned.

FRANCE.

Coal Trade of Bordeaux and District.

H.M. Consul at Bordeaux (Mr. R. D. G. Macdonald) reports that the entire importation of coal into Bordeaux and outports in 1904 was 901,665 metric tons, an increase on 1903 of 9,806 tons. The imports of British coal amounted in 1904 to 870,765 tons, an increase over 1903 of 16,202 tons. Of these, 29,248 tons were in the form of British briquettes, an increase over 1903 of 10,441 tons. This item is the more satisfactory seeing that new patent fuel works in Bordeaux have manufactured the well-known Cardiff Anchor Brand during the last six months.

The British Vice-Consul at Bayonne (Mr. P. Schoedelin) reports that in 1904 the total importation of British coal into Bayonne was 246,026 tons, being an increase of 24,243 tons on the previous

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

FRANCE—*continued.*

year. Special attention is drawn to the large quantity of German coal that is continually imported into Bayonne. During the past year no less than 60,000 tons were imported direct *viâ* Rotterdam. The prices varied from 11*s.* 8*d.* to 12*s.* 8*d.* c.i.f. Bayonne, according to the quality and the purpose for which the coal is intended, namely, 11*s.* 8*d.* for steam and 12*s.* 8*d.* washed for coking purposes. The entire quantity was imported by Spanish vessels, carrying about 3,000 tons at the rate of 3*s.* 9*d.* per ton. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,381.)

Possible competition of French with Imported Coals.

The British Vice-Consul at La Rochelle (Mr. C. J. Hans Hamilton) writes with regard to coal :—

"If the proposed reduction in railway rates for native coal in France is carried out, there may in the near future be a considerable diminution in the quantity of coal imported by sea to these ports, which is at present carried inland by rail as far as 200 miles. This would especially affect the small coal imported for the manufacture of coal bricks in France, French coal being already used for that purpose in these parts, though, I believe, in comparatively small quantities. At the present time native coal benefits by a slightly lower tariff than foreign coal." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,381.)

BOLIVIA.

Tin.

Referring to the increase in the production of tin, H.M. Consul at Oruro (Mr. J. Ramsay Smith) reports that only a few years ago the exportation of this metal was so insignificant that but few people in the United Kingdom knew anything about it, and some of these few thought it came from Chile, as it was shipped from a Chilean port.

To-day Bolivia is one of the largest tin producers in the world, and half the output comes from the Oruro district. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,388.)

JAPAN.

Antimony.

H.M. Consul at Kobe (Mr. H. A. B. Bonar) in his recent report gives the yearly output of antimony in the Kobe district at about 500 tons, and states that owing to the war and a purchase of 300 tons by the Government in November, prices have advanced some 20 per cent. At present no stock is available, supplies being contracted for until April. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,387.)

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Corn Prices.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 17th June, 1905, were as follow:—

Wheat	...	...	...	...	31*s.* 7*d.*
Barley	...	...	...	...	26*s.* 0*d.*
Oats	...	...	...	...	19*s.* 1*d.*

For further particulars see p. 566.

Imports of Agricultural Produce.

Statements are published on pp. 567-8 ,showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the weeks ended the 10th and 17th June, 1905, as well as of the imports during the corresponding weeks of 1904.

FRANCE—COCHIN-CHINA.

Exports of Cotton.

The following table, showing the quantity and value of the exports of ginned and unginned cotton from French Cochin-China in the years 1902 and 1903, is compiled from statistics contained in the recent report (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,378) of the British Vice-Consul at Saigon (Mr. J. L. O'Connell) :—

	Ginned Cotton.		Unginned Cotton.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Kilos.	Dollars.	Kilos.	Dollars.
1902...	1,248,742	462,727	1,398,579	180,515
1903...	1,517,955	562,466	1,736,053	243,355
Increase in 1903 ..	269,213	99,739	337,474	62,840

NOTE.—1 dollar = say, 1*s.* 10½*d.*

BRAZIL.

Agricultural and Dairy Industries: Measures for Encouragement.

H.M. Consul-General at Rio de Janeiro (Mr. C. B. Rhind) has forwarded to the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade copies of Decrees promulgated by the Government of the State of Rio de Janeiro, with the object of encouraging the development of agricultural and dairy industries within that State :—

Firstly, providing for the establishment of a Public School of

Agriculture.

BRAZIL—*continued.*

Agriculture, with lands for practical experiments in agriculture and grape-growing.

Secondly, providing for practical instruction on pupils' own lands, by travelling instructors, in ploughing and the use of agricultural implements, machinery and instruments of all kinds.

Thirdly, establishing a prize of 2,000 dols. for the ham curers who, during the year following upon the 1st June, 1905, shall produce a quantity exceeding 3,000 kilos.

Coffee Stock at Rio.

H.M. Consul-General at Rio de Janeiro (Mr. C. B. Rhind) reports that the result of a ballot taken among agents, shippers, and others interested in the coffee trade, for the purpose of obtaining precise returns of the actual stock on the spot, is to the effect that on the 9th May last the local stock at Rio amounted to 211,555 bags.

Local consumption is in future to be computed at 8,000 bags a month instead of 5,000 bags as hitherto.

ARGENTINA.

Orange Cultivation.

An extract from the report by the Auxiliary Immigration Commissioner of Tucuman Province, published in the "Review of the River Plate," states that the soil of Tucuman is eminently suited for the cultivation of the tangerine orange, and that it is difficult to understand why agriculturists neglect a source of profit so easy to control. Plants have been known to yield in a year 800 to 1,000 oranges of good size and excellent quality. The price of tangarines in the market is 70 cents to 1 dol. per dozen. An hectare of plantation will hold 100 to 625 plants. Exporting prospects are said to be excellent.

SAMOA.

Kola, Caoutchouc, Cacao and Cocoanut.

The Acting British Vice-Consul at Apia (Mr. T. Trood), in his report on the trade of Samoa for last year (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,380), gives interesting information as to the local production of kola bean, caoutchouc, cacao and cocoanut (for coprah), and remarks:—"Communications from any firm with regard to tropical industries will receive full attention at the Consulate."

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

State of the Labour Market in May, 1905.

A report published in the "Board of Trade Labour Gazette"* of the 16th June, based on 4,896 returns, viz.: 3,470 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,341 from Trade Unions, and 85 from other sources, states that, compared with April, employment in May showed an improvement. In addition to some seasonable improvement in the building, boot and shoe and clothing trades, employment in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, and in the cotton, woollen, worsted and hosiery trades was better.

As compared with a year ago there was an improvement in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades generally, and in the cotton, woollen, worsted, and boot and shoe industries. Employment in the building trades was, however, worse than in May, 1904.

In the 271 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 575,512, making returns, 29,487 (or 5·1 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of May, 1905, as compared with 5·6 in April, 1905, and 6·3 in May, 1904.

* For list of principal contents of the "Board of Trade Labour Gazette," see p. 569.

Fishery Statistics, May, 1905.

The following statement shows the quantity and value of fish landed on the English and Welsh, Scotch, and Irish Coasts during the month and five months ended 31st May, 1905, compared with the corresponding periods of the year 1904:—

—	Month of May.				Five Months ended 31st May.			
	1905.		*1904.*		1905.		*1904.*	
	Quantity.	Value.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	Quantity.	Value.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
England and Wales—	Cwts.	£	*Cwts.*	*£*	Cwts.	£	*Cwts.*	*£*
Fish, excluding shell fish	1,148,847	568,945	*874,130*	*480,786*	3,656,380	2,737,781	*3,387,240*	*2,487,263*
Shell fish	—	40,429	—	*28,978*	—	129,776	—	*119,111*
Total Value ...	—	609,374	—	*509,764*	—	2,867,557	—	*2,606,374*
Scotland—								
Fish, excluding shell fish	459,412	167,965	*360,620*	*144,053*	1,743,131	731,590	*1,669,213*	*719,872*
Shell fish	—	8,526	—	*9,510*	—	28,665	—	*31,598*
Total Value ...	—	176,491	—	*153,563*	—	760,255	—	*751,470*
Ireland—								
Fish, excluding shell fish	199,384	58,571	*220,596*	*58,766*	274,029	111,118	*341,330*	*120,682*
Shell fish	—	1,168	—	*879*	—	3,872	—	*3,175*
Total Value ...	—	59,739	—	*59,645*	—	114,990	—	*123,857*

NOTE.—All the above figures are subject to correction in the annual returns.

Miscellaneous.

UNITED KINGDOM—*continued.*

Cotton Statistics.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 15th June, 1905, was 66,257 (including 3 bales British West African), and the number imported during the 24 weeks ended the 15th June was 2,090,197 (including 2,868 bales British West Indian and 1,352 bales British West African). As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 15th June, 1905, 3,269 bales, and for the 24 weeks, 215,018.

For further details see p. 566.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Seal Fishery of 1905.

A communication, dated 16th May, has been received at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade from their correspondent in Newfoundland (Mr. H. W. Le Messurier, Assistant Collector of Customs) containing the following particulars of the seal fishery (one of the staple industries of Newfoundland), which commenced on the 13th March and was concluded on the 1st May.

The seals taken off the coasts of Newfoundland are the harp seal and the hood seal, which come down on the Arctic floe at the beginning of March, riding the floe for the purpose of whelping.

This year twenty-two steamers, specially fitted for contending with the Arctic ice, manned by 3,528 men, brought in 177,100 seals of a gross weight of 4,417 tons and a net weight of 4,189 tons. The value of the skins and fat as sold to the manufacturers is 311,272 dols. This may be considered as only an average fishery and is less than that of last year when twenty-one steamers with 3,328 men brought in 284,473 seals weighing 5,427 tons gross and 5,186 net which sold for 403,794 dols.

The fat is now in process of manufacture into oil and will be marketed later in the season, being principally exported to the United Kingdom. Last year the quantity of oil exported was 2,748 tuns, 1,353 tuns of which went to the United Kingdom, 295 tuns to France, 390 tuns to Germany, 324 tuns to Canada and 386 tuns to the United States. The skins, which make excellent leather, are taken principally by the United Kingdom and the United States. Last year's returns show that 96,264 skins were exported to the United Kingdom, 143 skins to Canada and 147,232 to the United States.

The shortness of catch this year, as compared with last season, is attributable to the ice and weather conditions. The steamers were three days later in starting than they were in previous years.

Miscellaneous.

NORWAY.

Wood Pulp.

H.M. Consul-General at Christiania (Viscount Melville, I.S.O.) reports that the stocks of both mechanical and chemical wood pulp in Norway are at present very low.

Norway's production of wood pulp in the last three years is estimated to have been as follows:—

1. Chemical wood pulp, calculated dry—

	1902. Tons.	1903. Tons.	1904. Tons.
Cellulose sulphite ...	93,000	96,000	105,700
„ sulphate ...	9,000	9,500	16,700

2. Mechanical wood pulp (for sale), calculated wet—

1902. Tons.	1903. Tons.	1904. Tons.
326,000 ...	313,000 ...	290,000

The anticipated production in 1905 of mechanical wood pulp is estimated at 290,000 tons. Figures showing the anticipated production of cellulose in 1905 are not available.

Stocks on the 1st January of the three last years were as follows:—

1st January,	1903 ...	24,055	tons, calculated dry.
„	1904 ...	25,178	„ „ „
„	1905 ...	10,504	„ „ „

Of the stock left on 1st January this year 7,823 tons were sold, thus leaving unsold on that date only 2,681 tons.

GERMANY.

Fishing Industry.

H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg (Sir William Ward, C.V.O.) points out in his recent report that 132 sea-going fishing vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 3,922 tons were on the Hamburg register on 1st January, 1905, showing an increase, compared with the previous year, of only 25 tons. The steam trawlers, included in the foregoing figures, were 12 in number, with a total net tonnage of 396 tons.

Sir William Ward also mentions that it has recently been decided to establish a fish market at Cuxhaven, in addition to the Hamburg and Altona fish markets, as it is thought that the position of Cuxhaven would be more convenient for such a market than that of Hamburg. The project would, it is believed, prove successful provided proper arrangements were made for the rapid transport of the fish to the interior of Germany by express trains from Cuxhaven. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,393.)

Miscellaneous.

GERMANY—*continued.*

Comparative Trade of Germany and United Kingdom at Hamburg.

The following figures, showing the quantity and value of the imports and exports at Hamburg (by sea) from and to the United Kingdom and Germany during the years 1903–1904, are taken from the same report:—

Imports.

Countries whence Imported.	1903.		1904.	
	Cwts.	£	Cwts.	£
United Kingdom ...	69,346,255	20,654,804	67,333,576	20,823,700
Germany	5,736,726	4,093,512	5,428,700	4,107,486

Exports.

Countries to which Exported.	1903.		1904.	
	Cwts.	£	Cwts.	£
United Kingdom ...	28,299,840	23,170,525	25,090,501	21,982,782
Germany	11,877,282	10,568,009	14,352,500	11,850,633

(*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,393.)

FRANCE.

New use for Cork Bark.

H.M. Consul at Nice (Mr. A. McMillan) writes in his recent report:—

"I have been recently informed of a new departure in the cork trade. The bark, after undergoing a pulverising treatment, is subjected to pressure and transformed into slabs, which I understand are used for lining cold storage chambers, &c." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,383.)

FRANCE—NEW CALEDONIA.

Trade in 1904.

According to "La Quinzaine Coloniale," the trade of New Caledonia in 1904 amounted in value to 23,520,154 francs, of which 12,478,662 francs represented imports, and 11,041,492 francs exports.

The total value of the imports and exports in each of the last five years is given as follows:—

——	Imports.	Exports.
	Francs.	Francs.
1900	12,162,251	8,869,716
1901	13,681,939	11,055,892
1902	13,446,179	12,283,225
1903	13,671,998	8,963,895
1904	12,478,662	11,041,492

Miscellaneous.

The quantity of nickel ore exported amounted to 98,655 tons, as compared with 77,360 tons in 1903. The exports of chrome also showed a large increase in 1904, amounting to 42,197 tons, as compared with 21,437 tons in the preceding year; 8,964 tons of cobalt were exported, as compared with 8,292 tons in 1903. The exports of coffee amounted to 346,353 kilogs., showing a decrease of 280,625 kilogs. from the preceding year; this falling off is due to the unfavourable climatic conditions which obtained throughout the season. The prospects of the coffee crop of 1905 appear, however, exceptionally good, and it is expected that the figures of 1903 will be reached, and possibly surpassed.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Decreased Import of Wine.

In his report on the trade of Austria-Hungary for 1904, H.M. Consul-General at Vienna (Mr. Paul von Shoeller) states that as a consequence of the repeal of the wine clause of the Commercial Treaty with Italy, the importation of wine was only one-third of what it was in 1903, the decreased value amounting to 1,000,000*l.* (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,399.)

BULGARIA.

United Kingdom's Share in Import and Export Trade.

The following table, showing the share of the United Kingdom in the total import and export trade of Bulgaria from 1900 to 1904, is based on figures contained in the recent report by the Acting British Vice-Consul at Varna (Lieut.-Colonel P. Massy):—

Year.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Total.	British Share.	Total.	British Share.
	£	£	£	£
1900	1,854,000	301,000	2,159,000	240,000
1901	2,802,000	557,000	3,311,000	635,000
1902	2,850,600	609,000	4,147,000	980,000
1903	3,272,000	594,000	4,323,000	807,000
1904	5,188,000	794,000	6,305,000	989,000

(*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,395.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Shoe and Leather Industries.

H.M. Consul at Philadelphia (Mr. W. Powell), in his report to the Foreign Office for 1904 (*Annual Series*, 3398*), gives some interesting information respecting the shoe and leather industries in the United

* To be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C.

Miscellaneous.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—*continued.*

States, including statistics of the imports of hides and skins, production of boots and shoes and particulars of methods of production.

Improved Railway Car Axles.

The same report describes an important improvement in the manufacture of railway car axles, which has been patented in the United States as well as in Europe and Canada.

MEXICO.

Equivalents of Gold Peso.

The Mexican "Diario Oficial" of 24th May contains a table showing the equivalent of the Mexican gold peso in the coinage of all other countries having a gold standard. This table is published with a view to determine the fees payable to the diplomatic and consular representatives of Mexico.

The "Diario" may be seen at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

JAPAN.

Cold Storage at Kobe.

According to the "Japan Herald," cold storage is to be established at Kobe, building operations having already begun. The new venture will include the manufacture of isinglass and the importation of Australian meat, fruit and vegetables, which will be stored.

It is expected that business will commence in July.

Commercial Mission to China, Korea and Manchuria.

According to the "Canton Times" the Japanese Government have recently appointed a delegate to travel through China, Korea and Manchuria, in order to study the agricultural and commercial conditions of those countries, with a view to the extension and consolidation of Japanese trade and commerce with them. He will apparently call first at Shanghai on his way down, and thence proceed direct to Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Fuchow, Shanghai, Soochow, and thence to Kongking and Hankow. When he has finished his work in China he will visit Manchuria, and return to his native country, *viâ* Korea.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the **Number** of **Bales** of **Cotton Imported** and **Exported** at the **Various Ports** of the **United Kingdom** during the Week and 24 Weeks ended 15th June, 1905 :—

	Week ended 15th June, 1905.	24 Weeks ended 15th June, 1905.	Week ended 15th June, 1905.	24 Weeks ended 15th June, 1905.
	Imports. (Bales.)		Exports. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	62,098	1,756,175	1,862	151,906
Brazilian	100	28,800	17	524
East Indian	388	24,724	872	7,064
Egyptian	3,301	248,277	477	53,794
Miscellaneous	370*	32,221†	41	1,730‡
Total	66,257	2,090,197	3,269	215,018

* Including 3 bales British West African.
† „ 2,868 bales British West Indian and 1,352 bales British West African.
‡ „ 16 bales British West African.

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the **Average Price** of **British Corn,** per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 17th June, 1905, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

	Average Price.					
	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Week ended 17th June, 1905	31	7	26	0	19	1
Corresponding week in—						
1898	40	8	24	3	20	7
1899	25	7	26	2	17	11
1900	25	9	23	5	18	11
1901	27	6	23	2	20	3
1902	30	6	23	5	23	0
1903	27	6	20	7	18	3
1904	26	5	18	2	16	8

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley, and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of **Agricultural Produce** imported into the **United Kingdom** in the week ended 10th June, 1905, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 10th June, 1905.	*Corresponding Week in 1904.*
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	8,815	*11,444*
Sheep and lambs	„	3,480	*6,144*
Swine	„	—	—
Horses	„	349	*298*
Fresh Meat :—			
Beef	Cwts.	143,920	*93,775*
Mutton	„	103,612	*44,837*
Pork	„	4,027	*6,078*
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	116,322	*85,092*
Beef	„	6,835	*2,096*
Hams	„	35,203	*24,014*
Pork	„	4,674	*3,959*
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh	„	15,679	*12,518*
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting	„	16,712	*15,539*
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	83,552	*90,783*
Margarine	„	20,220	*16,699*
Cheese	„	40,985	*37,281*
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	„	—	—
„ cream	„	125	*208*
„ condensed	„	17,893	*14,099*
„ preserved, other kinds	„	51	*80*
Eggs	Grt. Hundr.	575,164	*411,460*
Poultry	Value £	2,518	*11,210*
Game	„	2,177	*2,006*
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	1.358	*2,137*
Lard	„	39,442	*38,550*
Corn, grain, meal, and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	1,940,100	*1,743,800*
Wheat meal and flour	„	182,300	*223,400*
Barley	„	242,800	*382,100*
Oats	„	622,500	*288,100*
Peas	„	40,739	*64,330*
Beans	„	29,040	*9,470*
Maize or Indian corn	„	723,500	*593,800*
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	19,121	*31,476*
Apricots and peaches	„	527	*51*
Bananas	Bunches.	153,136	*122,910*
Cherries	Cwts.	21,759	*25,898*
Currants	„	—	—
Gooseberries	„	197	*2,969*
Grapes	„	178	*268*
Lemons	„	26,470	*18,441*
Oranges	„	36,828	*62,955*
Pears	„	83	*178*
Plums	„	—	—
Strawberries	„	5,900	*5,236*
Unenumerated	„	692	*628*
Hay	Tons.	3,494	*2,791*
Straw	„	2,386	*2,560*
Moss Litter. (Not shown prior to 1905)	„	2,232	—
Hops	Cwts.	460	*138*
Locust Beans	„	24,510	*7,932*
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	116,899	*37,073*
Potatoes	Cwts.	318,850	*467,467*
Tomatoes	„	31,802	*37,120*
Unenumerated	Value £	18,137	*12,781*
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	7,607	*4,357*
Preserved by canning	„	5,146	*4,086*

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom—(*cont.*).

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of **Agricultural Produce** imported into the **United Kingdom** in the week ended 17th June, 1905, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 17th June, 1905.	*Corresponding week in 1904.*
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number	11.884	*13,098*
Sheep and lambs	"	2,896	*4 411*
Swine	"	150	—
Horses	"	138	*285*
Fresh meat :—			
Beef	Cwts.	84,882	*74,039*
Mutton	"	49,991	*75,245*
Pork	"	3,018	*6,732*
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	104,108	*106,952*
Beef	"	932	*3,586*
Hams	"	25,854	*31,238*
Pork	"	3,913	*5 606*
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh	"	9,729	*11,965*
Meat, preserved, otherwise than by salting	"	8,325	*9,970*
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	71,515	*84,714*
Margarine	"	17,022	*17,578*
Cheese	"	38,341	*51,593*
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	—	—
" cream	"	67	*145*
" condensed	"	12,611	*16,050*
" preserved, other kinds	"	26	*85*
Eggs	Grt. Hundr.	314,474	*461,701*
Poultry	Value £	2,533	*4,883*
Game	"	13	*2,865*
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	3,518	*1,164*
Lard	"	25,397	*46,331*
Corn, grain, meal and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	1,750,900	*2,943,900*
Wheat-meal and flour	"	142,200	*247,500*
Barley	"	280,100	*395,100*
Oats	"	432,600	*178,900*
Peas	"	80,325	*31.250*
Beans	"	20,910	*7,920*
Maize or Indian corn	"	637,500	*554,200*
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	10,794	*21,253*
Apricots and peaches	"	336	*475*
Bananas	Bunches	147,315	*86,799*
Cherries	Cwts.	22,559	*35,424*
Currants	"	316	*1,423*
Gooseberries	"	709	*4,165*
Grapes	"	294	*232*
Lemons	"	10,796	*8,857*
Oranges	"	30,458	*57,926*
Pears	"	23	*115*
Plums	"	—	*25*
Strawberries	"	5,689	*9,774*
Unenumerated	"	1,281	*3,765*
Hay	Tons	3,281	*2,808*
Straw	"	1,648	*2,417*
Moss Litter. (Not shown prior to 1905)	"	1,243	—
Hops	Cwts.	115	*651*
Locust beans	"	100	—
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels	64,601	*31,305*
Potatoes	Cwts.	353,898	*620,280*
Tomatoes	"	36,118	*27 276*
Unenumerated	Value £	13,061	*11,035*
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	476	*931*
Preserved by canning	"	2,581	*5,947*

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of May, 1905, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a cost, in the present instance of 1*s.* per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that Volume I. of the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1904, may be purchased at a cost of 7*s.* 7*d.* at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1900–1904, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country). The second volume will contain details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transhipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

The "Board of Trade Labour Gazette" is published by the Board of Trade the 16th of each month. The following are among the more important articles which appear in the June issue:—State of the Labour Market in May; Relief of the Unemployed; Changes in Agricultural Rates of Wages in 1904; Accident and Sickness Insurance in Austria; and Recent Conciliation Cases.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in Consular Reports of the **Annual Series** issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

ANNUAL.

No. 3,401. Trade of New Orleans, 1904.

Value of imports largest yet recorded. Notes on trade in burlaps, coffee, creosote oil, fruit, sisal hemp, and sugar.

Opening for British goods.

Returns of imports, exports, and shipping.

This publication contains also a report by the British Vice-Consul at Pensacola, with a sketch map showing the proximity of that port to the Pacific Coast and markets of the Far East through the Panama Canal, and a report by the British Vice-Consul at Jacksonville.

Government Publications.

No. 3,402. Trade of Baden, 1904.

Prosperous year's trade. Progress of the Trust or Syndicate system.

Notes on the corn, flour, and hops trade.

Decreasing exportation of cement.

No. 3,403. Trade of Java, 1904.

Prosperous state of trade, the large increase in sugar production having more than compensated for shortages in coffee and tobacco crops.

Diminishing market for indigo.

Larger demand for artificial fertilisers.

Enhanced facilities for trade with Australia.

Statement of tenders for Billiton tin opened at Batavia during 1903-04, showing average price per ton at each sale.

Returns of imports, exports, and shipping.

This publication contains also report by the British Vice-Consul at Macassar.

No. 3,404. Fishing Industries, &c., of the Faroe Islands, 1904.

Summary of the investigations undertaken by the vessel "Thor" respecting fish life in the waters of Iceland and Faroe.

Advantages of the telegraphic cable to be laid from the Shetland Islands to Faroe and Iceland.

Procedure necessary under the salvage law.

Account of whaling industry. Draft of regulations, with comments thereon.

Opening for motor fishing smacks.

No. 3,405. Trade of North Formosa, 1904.

Large increase in trade both in North Formosa and over the whole island.

Probable increase in demand for cycles.

Export trade in tea and camphor.

Railway extensions.

Returns of principal articles of import and export at Tamsui and Kelung, with remarks as to character of trade.

No. 3,406. Trade of Friendly Islands.

Figures of imports from Sydney, New South Wales, and Auckland, New Zealand.

Rates of duty on and prices current of imported goods.

Notes on principal exports. Expansion of fruit trade with New Zealand.

Government Publications.

No. 3,407. Trade of Corea, 1904.

Increase of 876,507*l.* in imports, and decrease of 259,710*l.* in exports, the total trade being largest on record.

Beneficial effect on commerce and industry of the war.

British imports chiefly railway materials and cotton goods, the Japanese being keen competitors in the latter.

Progress of the Seoul-Fusan and Seoul-Wiju Railway.

No. 3,408. Trade of Persian Gulf, 1904.

Decrease in imports, owing to dulness of markets in the interior, but increase in exports.

Trade stated to be retarded by the new Customs regulations.

Advice to shippers regarding invoices, and to steamship companies regarding harbour regulations.

Statistics of imports into Bushire from all countries.

Classified table of exports to all countries.

Trade returns of Bahrain and Lingah and the Arab Coast.

This publication contains also a report by H.M. Consul at Bunaer Abbas.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Mines and Quarries: General Report and Statistics for 1904. *Part I. District Statistics.* [*Cd.* 2,540.] *Price* 6½*d.*

This return, which forms the first part of the General Report on Mines and Quarries for 1904, contains statistics of the number of persons employed, the output of minerals, and of accidents at mines and quarries in the United Kingdom arranged according to the inspection districts. The total output of the undermentioned minerals in the United Kingdom in 1904 as compared with 1903 was as follows :—

—	1903.	1904.
	Tons.	Tons.
Coal	230,334,469	232,428,272
Clays and shale	16,198,021	15,948,915
Iron ore	13,715,645	13,774,282
Limestone (other than chalk)	12,222,971	12,043,135
Igneous rocks	5,425,538	5,988,821
Sandstone	5,409,502	5,303,260
Chalk	4,469,974	4,438,728

Government Publications.

International Sugar Conference. Spring Session, 1905. *Report of British Delegate, and Correspondence.* [*Cd.* 2,531.] *Price* 3½*d.*

This paper contains correspondence in connection with the session of the Permanent Sugar Commission held at Brussels in April last, with a report of its proceedings.

Sea Fisheries of Sutherland and Caithness. [*Cd.* 2,557.] *Price* 2*d.*

This publication contains a summary of the evidence given before the Committee appointed to enquire into the causes of the recent decrease in the prosperity of the sea fisheries in parts of the counties of Sutherland and Caithness, together with a report of the conclusions arrived at by the Committee as to the steps to be taken with a view to restoring that prosperity, or assisting the fishermen in the prosecution of their calling.

Post Office Money Orders. United Kingdom—Russia. [*Cd.* 2,459.] *Price* 2½*d.*

This publication contains the text of the agreement concluded on the 17/29 October, 1904, and to come into force as from that date, for the exchange of Post Office Money Orders between the United Kingdom and Russia, together with the detailed regulations for the execution of the agreement.

Parcel Post. United Kingdom—United States of America. [*Cd.* 2,512.] *Price* 1*d.*

This publication contains the text of the agreement, to come into operation as from the 1st April, 1905, between the Post Office of the United Kingdom and that of the United States of America for the direct exchange of parcels by Parcel Post between the two countries.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade (No. 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.) is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference, and at which, so far as the interests of British trade permit, replies shall be given to enquiries by traders on commercial matters.

On application being made to it either personally or by letter, the Branch supplies, so far as is possible, information with regard to the following subjects, viz.: Commercial Statistics; Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs and Customs Regulations; Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities; Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender; Sources of Supply, Prices, &c., of Trade Products; Forms of Certificates of Origin; Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers, &c., &c. There is a Sample Room at the offices of the Branch, where, in addition to samples illustrative of reports of H.M. Consuls or of the Correspondents or Special Commissioners of the Board of Trade, specimens of special interest that may be received from the Imperial Institute, India, or the Colonies, &c., are exhibited from time to time.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch, and intended for general information, is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1*d*. All applications respecting subscription, or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London to Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street. Copies may also be obtained from Messrs. G. Street & Co., Ltd., 30, Cornhill, E.C.

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.—In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of 1903, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Office of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

Among the branches of work now carried on by the Imperial Institute at South Kensington are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collection of these products which is exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at 73, Basinghall Street.

The "Imperial Institute Bulletin," issued quarterly, contains information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

March, 1905.

SPECIAL INDIAN AND COLONIAL TRADE ENQUIRY OFFICES.

India.—The India Trade Enquiry Office at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., has been established for the purpose of supplying the general public with all available information as to the commercial products, manufactures and trades of British India.

The office is under the superintendence of an India Office official, who is in daily attendance to answer personal or written enquiries.

The current publications of the Government of India dealing with Indian Trade statistics, tariff charges, railways, economic products, &c., are kept in the office, and can be consulted free: the various Indian Directories are also filed.

Canada.—The Canadian Government have secured premises at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., where an office has been opened under the designation of "Canadian Government Trade Enquiry Branch," for the convenience of the commercial community.

In due course it is intended to equip and maintain a display room, illustrating the products, resources and manufactures of the Dominion. In the meantime, a Canadian representative attends daily to deal with enquiries and applications in connection with Canadian import and export trade, and to supply information about Canadian matters generally. Personal appointments can be arranged when desired.

Cape of Good Hope.—The Government of the Cape of Good Hope have opened offices at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., for the purpose of a Commercial Agency for that Colony, which will be under the direction of the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope.

Mr. Lewis Atkinson, who has been appointed Commercial Agent, attends daily to deal with enquiries on all Commercial and Trade matters connected with Cape Colony.

Queensland.—For the convenience of the commercial community in the City of London, the Agent-General for Queensland has opened a branch office at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., where a representative attends daily to give information to enquirers regarding trade, mining, and all other matters in connection with Queensland.

A Reading Room will also be provided in which maps, directories, statutes, Government reports, and other publications of the State can be seen.

March, 1905.